

The following papers were read :—

1. On a Collection of Birds from the Solomon Islands. By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

(Plates IX. & X.)

Our Corresponding Member Mr. Gerard Krefft, the active Curator and Secretary of the Australian Museum, has most kindly presented to me a collection of birds in spirits, made by the captain of the (former) yacht 'Chance,' owned by Mr. J. A. Buttray of Bristol, during a voyage to the Solomon Islands*.

The collection contains thirty specimens, belonging to twenty-one species, many of them of great interest. But before speaking of them I will say a few words upon what has hitherto been recorded concerning the ornithology of this group of islands.

Our present authorities upon this subject are few in number, namely :—

(1) The "Zoologie" of the voyage of the French ships 'L'As-trolabe' and 'La Zélée,' under the command of Dumont-d'Urville, in 1837-1840, commonly known as the 'Voyage au Pôle Sud.'

The "Atlas" to this voyage contains figures of ten species of birds from the Solomon Islands, concerning which some further details are given in the letterpress of the same work, subsequently written by Dr. Pucheran and published in 1853. These ten species, which are all described as new to science, are :—

	Zool. vol. iii.	Atlas.	ex ins.
<i>Athene tenuota</i>	p. 50,	pl. 3. fig. 1.	S. George.
<i>Pachycephala orioloides</i> ...	p. 57,	pl. 5. fig. 3.	S. George.
<i>Lamprotornis fulvipennis</i> ...	p. 81,	pl. 14. fig. 2.	Isabel.
<i>Dicaeum æneum</i>	p. 97,	pl. 22. fig. 4.	S. George.
<i>Myzomela lafargei</i>	p. 98,	pl. 22. fig. 5.	
<i>M. solitaria</i>	p. 99,	pl. 22. fig. 6.	
<i>Lorius cardinalis</i>	p. 103,	pl. 24 bis. fig. 2.	
<i>Pionus heteroclitus</i>	p. 103,	pl. 25 bis. fig. 1.	S. George and Isabel.
<i>P. cyaniceps</i>	p. 105,	pl. 25 bis. fig. 2.	
<i>Cacatua ducorpsii</i>	p. 109,	pl. 26. fig. 1.	

(2) Mr. Gould's notices of new birds collected during the voyage of the 'Rattlesnake' (P. Z. S. 1856, p. 136 *et seq.*). The species here described from the Solomons are :—

1. *Centropus milo*, from Guadalcanar.
2. *Turaccena crassirostris*, from Guadalcanar.
3. *Lorius chlorocercus*, from San Cristoval.
4. *Iotreron eugeniæ*, from "the Solomons."

* The name of these islands is variously spelt "Salomon" and "Solomon" Islands. But we learn from Hakluyt (iii. p. 802) that the discoverer (Mendana) "named them the Isles of Salomon to the end that the Spaniards, supposing them to be those isles from whence Solomon fetched gold to adorn the Temple, might be the more desirous to go and inhabit the same." It would appear, therefore, to be better to call them in English "Solomon" Islands, according to the ordinary English orthography of Solomon's name.



M. J. J. HANFART D.F.

$\frac{2}{3}$

GRACULA KREFFTI.

J. SMIT LITH.



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J. SMIT LITH

M & N HANBART IMP

RALLUS INTACTUS.



(3) Mr. G. R. Gray's 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Tropical Islands of the Pacific Ocean' (London, 1859), which mentions seven species as occurring in the Solomon Islands, besides those given by the two already quoted authorities, namely:—

<i>Halcyon cinnamomina</i> , Sw.	<i>Carpophaga pistrinaria</i> , Bp.
— <i>sancta</i> , Vig. & Horsf.	— <i>rubracera</i> , Bp.
— <i>leucopygia</i> (Verr.).	<i>Nycticorax manillensis</i> .
<i>Trichoglossus massenæ</i> , Bp.	

Mr. Gray has not stated his authority for the occurrence of these species in the Solomon Islands, and there is probably some error as regards the first two of them. *H. leucopygia* is described by Verreaux from the Solomons, and the type is in the British Museum. Of *Trichoglossus massenæ* and the two *Carpophagæ* there are examples from San Cristoval (collected by M^cGillivray) in the British Museum. The *Nycticorax* is probably given on the authority of Bonaparte's 'Conspectus' (ii. p. 140), but must be regarded as a very doubtful denizen of the Solomon Islands until the statement is confirmed.

(4) My description of the new *Nasiterna* from the Solomon Islands, published in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1865 (p. 620). For this interesting representative of the *N. pygmæa* of New Guinea I was likewise indebted to Mr. Krefft's kindness. When I described it I was not certain from what island it came; but a subsequent communication from Mr. Krefft informed me that it was obtained in New Georgia, or St. George* Island.

The present collection from the Solomon Islands contains the following species:—

1. SAULOPROCTA MELALEUCA.

Muscipeta melaleuca, Q. et G. Voy. Astr. Zool. i. p. 180, Atlas, t. 4. f. 4.

Rhipidura melanoleuca, Bp. Consp. i. p. 322.

Sauloprocta melanoleuca, Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 57.

Originally discovered by the naturalists of the 'Astrolabe' expedition in New Ireland. A specimen from the same island (with which my example agrees), in the British Museum, was obtained in New Ireland during the voyage of the 'Sulphur.'

A fine series of this species is in Mr. Wallace's collection, from Bouru and other Moluccan and Papuan islands. *Rhipidura atripennis*, G. R. Gray, from the Aru Islands, appears to be scarcely distinguishable.

2. DICRURUS MEGARHYNCHUS.

Edolius megarhynchus, Q. et G. Voy. Astrol. Zool. i. p. 184, Atl. t. 6.

My single specimen of this *Dicrurus* seems to agree with a mounted specimen in the British Museum, received from "New Ireland"

* Cf. Finsch, Papag. i. p. 328.

through the late Sir Charles Lemon, F.R.S. Messrs. Quoy and Gaimard give Havre Dorey, New Guinea, as the habitat of this Drongo. But this is probably an error, as Mr. Wallace and other collectors who have since visited that locality have never met with it, and Drongoes are mostly abundant individually, and not easily missed if present. The species is probably restricted to the group of New Ireland and the Solomon Islands.

3. PHILEMON VULTURINUS*.

Tropidorhynchus vulturinus, Hombr. et Jacq. Voy. au P. S. Zool. iii. p. 88, Atl. t. 18. f. 1.

A single imperfect skin of a Honey-eater, which seems to agree generally with the figure above referred to. Pucheran gives the locality as Raffles Bay, New Holland; but the species is not known to the Australian fauna, and it is more than probable that there has been some error in M. Jacquinet's notes as to the locality.

The present bird is generally darker above than is represented in the figure, and has the apical portion of the bill light yellow. It is more like the so-called *Tropidorhynchus diemenensis*, Lesson, than any other species I am acquainted with, but has not the bluish wing-patch which distinguishes that species.

4. CALORNIS METALLICA (Temm.).

Lamprotornis metallica, Temm. Pl. Col. 266.

Aplonis metallica, Gould, B. Austr. Suppl. pt. 1.

Calornis metallica, Gould, Handb. B. Austr. i. p. 477.

Three skins (two ♂ and one ♀) agree with marked specimens in the British Museum. The species was originally described by Temminck from Amboina, but seems to extend over the whole of the Moluccan and Papuan Islands, including the northern promontory of New Holland. Mr. Wallace has a fine series from many localities, which vary but little *inter se*.

5. GRACULA KREFFTI, sp. nov. (Plate IX.)

Æneo-nigra: regione oculari late denudata flava: caudæ tectricibus superioribus et inferioribus, speculo alari et ventre imo albis, hoc flavescente tincto: rostro et pedibus aurantiacis: long. tota 11·0 poll. Angl., alæ 6·3, rostri a rictu lin. dir. 1·5, caudæ 4·2, tarsi 1·45.

Hab. Inss. Salomonenses.

Obs. Proxima *Graculæ dumonti*, sed valde major, cauda longiore, et ventre medio non flavo differt.

* It is always a misfortune to be obliged to change well-established names; but there seems to be no doubt that *Tropidorhynchus* of Vigors and Horsfield (1826) must give place to *Philemon* of Vieillot (1816). The first type given by Vieillot (*Analyse*, p. 47) is *Le Polochion* of Buffon = *Merops moluccensis*, Latham. This species is stated to inhabit Bouru, and is clearly the same as that subsequently described by Mr. Wallace (P. Z. S. 1863, p. 31) as *Tropidorhynchus bouruensis*. It is a typical species of the genus, and should be called *Philemon moluccensis*.

This fine new *Gracula* is, as might have been expected from its *patria*, nearest to *Gracula dumonti* of New Guinea and the Aru Islands, of which I exhibit a fine skin from Mr. Wallace's collection for comparison. The naked space round the eye is nearly, though not quite, of the same form. There is also a narrow naked line along the lower edge of the mandible; but this is not nearly so broad as in *G. dumonti*, and is almost hidden by the feathers on each side. The primaries have a broad white bar across them, about halfway up on the outer primary, but descending gradually towards the apex on the inner primaries. This forms a white speculum, as in *G. dumonti*. All the dimensions of the new species exceed those of its ally; but this is particularly the case in the tail, which in *G. dumonti* is rather stumpy, measuring only 2·6 inches from the insertion of the feathers in the coccyx, instead of 4·2.

I have great pleasure in naming this new Grackle after our active Corresponding Member Mr. Gerard Krefft, to whose kindness I am indebted for the whole of the very interesting series of which it forms a part.

The stomach of the single specimen in the collection contained seeds and stones of semidigested fruit.

There is a single skin of this *Gracula* in the British Museum, received from "New Ireland" through the late Sir Charles Lemon, F.R.S. It agrees very well with the present specimen, except in having the lower belly rather more deeply tinged with yellow.

6. EURYSTOMUS CRASSIROSTRIS, sp. nov.

Similis E. pacifico, sed major, rostro latiore, crassiore, robustiore; capite supra nigricante nec fuscescente; dorso toto viridescenti-cæruleo: ventre magis cæruleo: cauda valde longiore: long. tota 11·5, alæ 7·2, caudæ 5·0, rostri ab ang. oris lin. dir. 1·6, ejusdem lat. 1·2.

Hab. Inss. Salomonenses.

There is a single specimen of this Roller in the collection. I have compared it with Mr. Wallace's series of *E. pacificus*, from which it presents readily appreciable differences, and with other Australian specimens. The strong thick bill and longer tail seem to render it impossible to leave it as a variety of *E. pacificus*. In Mr. Wallace's collection, however, is a single skin from Waigiou which is generally very similar to the present example, differing principally in having the wing-coverts of a more bluish tinge. The wing-coverts of *E. crassirostris* are more like those of *E. pacificus*.

7. TODIRHAMPHUS CHLORIS (Bodd.).

Alcedo chloris, Bodd. ex Buff. Pl. Enl. 783. f. 2.

A. chlorocephala, Gm.

One specimen apparently referable to this widely distributed species, which is diffused from the north-east coast of Africa over India, the Malayan archipelago, and the Moluccan and Papuan Islands. In Australia it appears to be represented by *T. sordidus*.

8. BUCEROS RUFICOLLIS.

Buceros ruficollis, Vieill. Temm. Pl. Col. 557.

A young male of this species, which is the only one of the family found in the Papuan subregion.

9. CENTROPUS ATERALBUS.

Centropus ateralbus, Less. Voy. Coq. Zool. i. p. 620, Atlas, t. 33 ; Bp. Consp. i. p. 108.

One example of this Coucal, which was originally discovered by Lesson, during the voyage of the 'Coquille,' at Port Praslin, New Ireland.

10. CACATUA GOFFINI.

Plectolophus goffini, Finsch, Papag. i. p. 308.

A single skin of a white Cockatoo, is apparently referable to this species, of which the exact habitat was previously unknown.

11. GEOFFROIUS HETEROCLITUS.

Pionus heteroclitus, Hombr. et Jacq. Voy. au P. S. t. 25 ; Puch. ibid. Zool. iii. p. 105.

Pionias heteroclitus, Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 390.

Two skins apparently referable to the female or young of this species as represented in the second figure of the Atlas of the 'Voyage au Pôle Sud.' Dr. Pucheran has recognized in this form a distinct species, which he has proposed to call *Pionus cyaniceps*, but Dr. Finsch believes him to be in error on this point.

Dr. Finsch has examined the two specimens in the present collection. One of them has had its wings cut, having been apparently in captivity.

12. LORIUS CHLOROCERCUS.

Lorius chlorocercus, Gould, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 137 ; G. R. Gray, List of Psitt. p. 49 ; Sclater, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 183, pl. xvi.

Domicella chlorocerca, Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 767.

Three skins of this splendid species are in the collection.

13. LORIUS HYPÆNOCHROUS.

Lorius hypoinochrous, G. R. Gray, List of Psitt. p. 49 (1859).

Domicella hypoinochroa, Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 768.

One skin of this fine Lory is in the collection. I have compared it with the typical example in the British Museum, which is, as far as I know, unique.

14. EOS CARDINALIS.

Lorius cardinalis, Homb. et Jacq. Voy. au P. S. Zool. iii. p. 101, t. 24 bis. f. 2.

Domicella cardinalis, Finsch, Papag. ii. p. 785.

Dr. Finsch has kindly undertaken the examination of this rare